

IN THE CLAIMS:

Substitute the following claims for the pending claims having the same numbers.

1. (previously presented) A cable duct device, comprising:
a swellable packer of the kind in which the packer is adapted for sealing an annulus, the packer including a seal material which swells and thereby increases in volume in response to contact with a swell-activating material; and

at least one through-going opening provided in the packer and adapted to constitute a duct for a cable or pipe.

2. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the through-going opening encloses the cable both prior to and after swelling has occurred in the swellable packer.

3. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the through-going opening has a variable longitudinal extension.

4. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the through-going opening has a variable cross-section.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) A cable duct device, comprising:

a swellable packer, the packer including a seal material which swells and thereby increases in volume in response to contact with a swell-activating material;

a slit extending at least partially laterally through a sidewall of the packer; and

a cable positioned in the packer proximate the slit.

7. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the packer seals about the cable when the seal material swells.

8. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the packer is annular shaped and extends lengthwise in a longitudinal direction, wherein the slit extends longitudinally through the packer, and wherein the cable extends longitudinally through the slit.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the slit intersects an opening extending longitudinally through the packer, and wherein the cable is positioned in the opening.

11. (new) A method of extending a cable longitudinally through a packer, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a swellable packer including a seal material having an opening extending longitudinally through the seal material, and a longitudinal slit extending between the opening and an external surface of the packer;

inserting the cable into the opening through the slit; and
then swelling the seal material by contacting the seal material with a swell-activating material, thereby causing the seal material to seal about the cable in the opening.

12. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein the swell-activating material comprises water.

13. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein the swell-activating material comprises hydrocarbons.